

of the respective participant with respect to the starting time of the meeting. The information that is provided regarding the estimated time of arrival may be provided in various manners, but, in an example embodiment, is provided in a manner so as to cause a ticker notification to be displayed such that the party receiving the information, such as the meeting organizer and/or the other participants in the meeting, may be provided a display of the estimated time of arrival for the one or more participants in a ticker format.

**[0044]** As also shown in FIG. 4, an indication 46, such as an icon, may be presented in association with the identification of at least some of the participants that, upon selection, provides for the display of contact information, e.g., telephone number, email address, etc., or otherwise initiates communication with the respective participant, such as by placing a telephone call to the participant, creating a text message or other electronic message for the respective participant or the like. The information relating to the estimated time of arrival may also include information defining a map that provides an indication of the respective location of a respective participant in a meeting. In the embodiment depicted in FIG. 4, an indication 48, such as an icon, may be provided that, upon selection, permits a map to be displayed that includes an indication of the location of the respective participant with which the map icon is associated and, in some embodiments, indications as to the respective locations of each of a plurality of participants in the meeting. In this regard, FIG. 5 depicts a map presented upon the display 42 of a mobile terminal 40. As shown, the respective locations of Tom Jones, Amy Watson and Michael Smith are depicted, as well as an indication of the location of the corporate headquarters at which the meeting is to be conducted.

**[0045]** The apparatus 10, such as the processor 12, may repeatedly update the information relating to the estimated time of arrival of one or more participants, such as on a periodic basis, as described above and may provide the updated information to the meeting organizer and/or one or more other participants until, for example, a condition is satisfied that terminates further notification of the estimated time of arrival of one or more participants. See block 34 of FIG. 2. Various conditions may be defined so as to terminate further notifications of the estimated time of arrival of a participant. For example, the apparatus, such as the processor, may determine that a participant has arrived at the meeting location, such as based upon the current location of the participant coinciding with the meeting location which may, in turn, cause further notifications of the estimated time of arrival of the participant to be terminated. Additionally or alternatively, the condition for termination of further notifications of the estimated time of arrival of the participants may be satisfied once the meeting time is reached. Still further, the participant may manually terminate further notifications of the estimated time of arrival. Regardless of the condition, once the condition for terminating further notifications of the estimated time of arrival of one or more participants is satisfied, such notifications may be ceased. See block 36 of FIG. 2.

**[0046]** In an example embodiment, one or more alternative locations for the meeting may be suggested in an instance that in which at least one of the participants is going to be late for the meeting as originally scheduled in an effort to reduce the delay associated with the meeting. In this example embodiment, the apparatus 10 may include means, such as the processor 12 or the like, for determining if the estimated time of arrival of at least one participant is later than the starting time

of a meeting. See block 26 of FIG. 2. In an instance in which the estimated time of arrival of at least one participant is later than the starting time of the meeting, the apparatus may include means, such as the processor or the like, for determining one or more alternative meeting locations based on the respective locations of the participants in the meeting, that is, based upon the current locations of the participants in the meeting. See block 28. For example, the apparatus, such as the processor, may identify an alternative meeting location that will require each participant to travel for approximately the same length of time in order to permit the meeting to begin as soon as practical.

**[0047]** By way of example, Dr. North and Dr. South may be scheduled to attend a meeting. However, Dr. North may miss the train to the meeting location and, as such, may be estimated to arrive at the meeting location an hour late for the meeting. In response to a notification provided about an hour prior to the meeting, Dr. South may learn of Dr. North's anticipated tardiness. In an effort to reduce the delay associated with the meeting, a suggestion may be circulated to Drs. North and South that the meeting location be changed from the original meeting location, namely, the south station, to an alternative meeting location, namely, the north station at which Dr. North's train will arrive. Upon acceptance of the alternative meeting location by the participants, the meeting may be rescheduled to the north station, while maintaining the same starting time. As noted above, multiple alternative meeting locations may be provided, such as a middle station which would reduce but not eliminate the delay associated with the meeting. By rescheduling the meeting in advance, the delay associated with the meeting may be reduced and Dr. South may make efficient use of the time prior to the meeting and avoid sitting idle while waiting an hour for Dr. North to arrive.

**[0048]** The apparatus 10, such as the processor 12, of an example embodiment may not only consider the current locations of the participants in identifying the alternative meeting location, but may also determine the alternative meeting location based upon one or more predefined alternative meeting location candidates. The plurality of predefined alternative meeting location candidates may be differently defined depending upon the context of the meeting. For a business-related meeting to be conducted at the headquarters of a company, other local facilities owned or operated by the same company may be considered as alternative meeting location candidates. For a meeting of friends or family at a restaurant, other restaurants serving the same type of food and in the same price range may be considered as alternative meeting location candidates. From amongst the plurality of predefined alternative meeting location candidates, the apparatus, such as the processor, of this embodiment may determine which of the alternative meeting location candidates is centrally located relative to the current locations of the participants such that each of the participants could likely travel to the alternative meeting location and arrive at the earliest time relative to the anticipated arrival times at the other alternative meeting location candidates.

**[0049]** In an instance in which the apparatus 10, such as the processor 12, determines an alternative meeting location that would result in the meeting being conducted with less delay than if the meeting were to remain at the originally scheduled location, the apparatus may include means, such as the processor, the communication interface 16, the user interface 18 or the like, for causing a suggestion for the alternative meet-